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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 08203.0033

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Frank BONADIO et al.

Application No.: 10/736,234

Filed: December 16, 2003

For: SURGICAL DEVICE

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) Group Art Unit: 3764
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) Examiner: Unknown
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)
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO 1449. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached 1449 form.

Copies of the listed non-U.S. patent documents are attached, as is a copy of an English language version of a Search Report from the European Patent Office in a counterpart application, setting forth the relevance of the non-English documents.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Patent Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

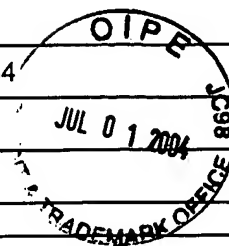
Dated: July 1, 2004

By: 

Roland G. McAndrews
Reg. No. 41,450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	08203.0033	Application No.	10/736,234
Applicant	Frank BONADIO et al.		
Filing Date	December 16, 2003	Group:	3764



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,480,410	01/1996	Cuschieri et al.			
	5,906,577	05/1999	Beane et al.			

U.S. PATENT PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Publication Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	2001/0037053 A1	11/2001	Bonadio et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
0 950 376 A1	10/1999	EP			
WO 95/07056	03/1995	PCT			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

International Search Report for International Application No. PCT/IE03/00171, June 9, 2004.

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce